

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9841

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 0514

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: WORKING GROUP STUDY OF U.S. AIR MANPOWER PROPOSALS

REF: A) STATE 20905; B) STATE 8358; C) USNATO 341

1. MISSION APPRECIATES GUIDANCE PROVIDED REF A AND INDICATION WASHINGTON WILL PROVIDE ANSWERS TO OTHER QUESTIONS RAISED IN WG INCLUDING THOSE WHICH UK WG REP SUBMITTED DECEMBER 17.

2. MISSION SHARES CONCERN REFLECTED IN PARA 3 OF REF A REGARDING PACE OF ALLIED CONSIDERATION OF US AIR MANPOWER PROPOSALS. WE WILL MAKE POINTS ON THIS PARA AT NEXT WG MEETING AND WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS

FOR PROMPT CONCLUSION OF WG MILITARY-TECHNICAL STUDY AND SPC GUIDANCE TO THE AD HOC GROUP.

3. SINCE WE SUBMITTED US PACKAGE PROPOSAL (REF B) ON JANUARY 15
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AND 16, AND SPC REQUESTED WG STUDY, WG STAFF HAS COOPERATED IN PROMPTLY CIRCULATING DRAFT OF ANALYSIS POINTING UP POSITIVE ASPECTS OF U.S. PROPOSALS. PRINCIPLE PROBLEM IN WG IS FRG POSITION AND TACTICS, WHICH WE AND OTHER WG REPS HAVE TAKEN

AS EFFORT ON INSTRUCTIONS TO DELAY COMPLETION OF STUDY OF U.S. PROPOSALS. OTHER REPS HAVE PRESENTED QUESTIONS FROM CAPITALS ON U.S. DECEMBER 2 PAPER, WHICH THEY BELIEVE ARE RELEVANT TO NEW U.S. PROPOSALS, AND SOME (PARTICULARLY NETHERLANDS) HAVE ATTEMPTED TO BROADEN FOCUS OF STUDY TO PHASE II ISSUES. UK REP (GERAHTY), WHILE EXPRESSING PUZZLEMENT OVER DELAY IN U.S. RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC ALLIED QUESTIONS IN LIGHT OF U.S. INTEREST IN MOVING AHEAD ON INSTRUCTIONS TO VIENNA ON U.S. PROPOSAL, HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN EMPHASIZING NEED TO HIGHLIGHT BENEFITS OF U.S. PROPOSAL. ACTING WG CHAIRMAN (SMITH) HAS ATTEMPTED TO DEFLATE SOME CONCERNS FRG REP EXPRESSED AND TO ACCOMMODATE THEM IN WAY THAT DOES NOT DETRACT FROM POSITIVE THRUST OF PAPER.

4. MISSION CIRCULATED TO WG MEMBERS JANUARY 30 RESPONSES CONTAINED IN SUBPARAS A,B,C, AND D OF PARA 3 REF A. WE WILL PRESENT POINT IN PARA 2 REF A AT NEXT WG MEETING. MISSION HAS DECIDED TO HOLD BACK ON EXPLANATION OF U.S. THINKING IN PARA 1 PENDING FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON. WE SEE POSSIBLE PROBLEM IN INTRODUCING INTO ALLIANCE DISCUSSION AT THIS TIME CONCEPT THAT U.S. HAS NOT DECIDED WHETHER AN EXPLICIT U.S. COMMITMENT TO INCLUDE U.S. AIR MANPOWER IN ITS REDUCTION OF 15 PERCENT OF AIR AND GROUND MANPOWER WOULD BE CONDITIONAL ON A SIMILARLY EXPLICIT SOVIET COMMITMENT TO INCLUDE SOVIET AIR MANPOWER IN ITS REDUCTION OF 15 PERCENT OF AIR AND GROUND MANPOWER. MISSION BELIEVES FRG MIGHT SEE THIS CONCEPT AS ERODING VOLUNTARY ASPECT OF AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS. NETHERLANDS AND BELGIANS COULD HAVE SIMILAR CONCERNS.

5. AT REQUEST OF MISSION OFFICER, ACTING WG CHAIRMAN WILL ALTER PARA 5E IN NEXT DRAFT OF WG PAPER (REF C) IN WAY WHICH ACCOMMODATES POINTS IN PARA 1 REF A WITHOUT REQUIRING PRESENTATION OF THIS PARA IN WG. HE WILL ALSO CHANGE REFERENCES TO REDUCTIONS IN "COMBAT AIRCRAFT" TO "TACTICAL FIGHTER AIRCRAFT" IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 2 REF A.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENT ON FURTHER HANDLING OF PARA 1 REF A. BRUCE

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